

TRIBUTE TO MILDRED MILLIE  
JEFFREY

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with high honor and deep admiration that I share the words of President William Jefferson Clinton as he bestowed the Presidential Medal of Freedom to a national treasure from the State of Michigan, Mildred "Millie" Jeffrey.

As a Catholic schoolgirl, Millie Jeffrey dodged the stones of neighborhood bigots and watched Klansmen march through town with a burning cross. As a union organizer in Mississippi, she stood bravely as company men snapped bullwhips at her feet. Clearly, they didn't know whom they were up against.

She may be small in stature and humble in manner, but she is very strong. She worked for Walter Reuther and counseled the Kennedys, influencing all with her courage and unflagging commitment to social justice. To meet the need for more women in public office, she started the National Women's Political Caucus, and sparked the effort to nominate Geraldine Ferraro 16 years ago.

For countless women around the world, she remains an inspiration. Her impact will be felt for generations, and her example never forgotten.

It has been my personal privilege to work side by side with Millie Jeffrey over these years on many vital issues ranging from the world of politics including the campaign of Robert Kennedy to the world of civil rights and the rights of women. It is hard to convey through the written word Millie's enthusiasm and dogged devotion to her causes. She not only continues to "light up" a room, but she remains committed to action and results.

In closing, let me share a bit of Millie Jeffrey herself from an upcoming documentary film of her life, "You never win freedom permanently. You have to win it time after time after time—whether it's union rights, civil rights, equality in education or for women in any aspect of our lives. We have to keep at it, and at it."

TRIBUTE TO J.R. CURTIS

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of an exceptional man, an outstanding community leader and beloved citizen of Longview, Texas, the late J.R. Curtis, whose life was cut short at the age of 55 following a motorcycle accident on September 2 in Durango, Colorado. J.R. lived life with enthusiasm—and with a tremendous devotion to his family, his community, his friends and his faith. He leaves a remarkable legacy of professional and civic accomplishments—as well as a legacy of loving relationships with his family and many friends.

J.R. was born on August 18, 1945, to James R. Curtis, Sr., and Sarah DeRue Armstrong Curtis of Longview. He graduated from Longview High School in 1963 and graduated from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth in 1967. He also attended the American Institute of Foreign Trade in Glendale, Ariz., from 1967–68.

J.R. was a successful and popular radio broadcaster in Longview. He purchased KFRO AM/FM radio station from his father in 1986 and was the owner and manager until 1998. He also became owner of KLSQ-FM and operated KNYN in Santa Fe, N.M. He began his broadcasting career in high school, working for his father's station as sportscaster for KFRO's Wednesday night Teen Time Program. He learned all aspects of the radio business, from engineering to news and sales, at an early age.

J.R. was active in the Texas Association of Broadcasters, serving as a medium market director for TAB and as president of TAB. He was named Texas Broadcaster of the Year in 1990. He also was active at the national level, serving as a member of the National Association of Broadcasters Blitz Committee and as a director of NAB in Washington, DC, from 1996–99.

In addition to broadcasting, J.R. served as president of the Curtis Foundation, president of Workmans Oil Co., and a director of First Federal Savings Bank of Longview from 1982–1997. At the time of his death, he was employed as a consultant with Longview Economic Development Corp.

J.R. served nine years on the Longview City Council, from 1975–1984. In 1977 he became the youngest mayor in Texas when he was appointed by the council at age 33 to the city's top job. His recent community involvement included serving as president and vice president of Longview 20/20 Forum; finance chairman of Longview Museum Fine Arts, 1997; director of Longview Partnership, 1995–98; and a member of the administrative board of First United Methodist Church, 1996–98. He had a 19-year perfect attendance record in the Longview Rotary Club, where for many years he kept the membership informed of local and national news.

Other involvements included serving as president of Gregg County Housing Finance Corp., executive committee member for the East Texas Council of Governments, director of Little Cypress Utility District, director of the Longview Chamber of Commerce, foundation board member of Good Shepherd Medical Center, foundation board member of LeTourneau University, board member of Crisman Preparatory School and a volunteer for many other organizations. He was a member of the Collier Sunday School Class at First United Methodist Church and an usher at the church.

J.R. is survived by his loving wife of 33 years, Sue Skaggs Curtis; his son and daughter-in-law, Jason Skaggs Curtis and Janey of Fort Worth; his daughter, Elizabeth Ann Curtis of Longview; granddaughter, Margaret Lynn of Fort Worth; his aunt, Ruth Elizabeth Curtis Gray of Longview; mother-in-law, Fredna Skaggs of Longview; brother-in-law Bill Hodges of Longview and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Lucas of Longview; two nephews and a niece, and other relatives. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Elizabeth DeRue Curtis Hodges.

J.R. had biked to Durango with five friends for an annual getaway vacation. He died as he had lived—with enthusiasm for life and for friendship. He will long be remembered for the significant contributions he made to his beloved city of Longview. As his wife and high school sweetheart, Sue Curtis, noted, "He

loved Longview. He believed in Longview. He was born here and went to school here and wanted to make it a better place."

And he did. J.R.'s influence can be found everywhere in Longview—and will be felt for years to come. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in celebration of the life of this wonderful man and citizen of Longview, Texas—J.R. Curtis, whose memory will be cherished in the hearts and minds of those who knew him and loved him.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN ON THE OCCASION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S 89TH NATIONAL DAY

**HON. EVA M. CLAYTON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of the Republic of China's 89th National Day, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing our friends in Taiwan a most happy and enjoyable National Day.

Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues and me, there are countless people across this nation who applaud the economic and political accomplishments of our friends in Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, I truly wish there were more nations in the world following Taiwan's example of unprecedented economic success and rapid democratization; Taiwan is indeed the shining model that all developing nations in the world should seek to emulate. I am certain, Mr. Speaker, that many of my colleagues, given the opportunity, would express the same sentiment.

I am pleased for this opportunity to extend every good wish to the people of Taiwan and its leaders.

TAIWAN CELEBRATES ITS BIRTHDAY

**HON. RICK HILL**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan will celebrate its birthday on October 10, 2000. Taiwan is a modern country led by President Chen Shui-bian, who believes that Taiwan's future lies in a strong democracy and a free enterprise system. Taiwan is an excellent model of democracy, as was demonstrated in its March presidential election. Since his inauguration as president on May 20, President Chen has convincingly demonstrated his leadership. Economically, in addition to its well-known industrial prowess, in recent years Taiwan leads most Asian nations in its production of computers, chips and telecommunications equipment.

Taiwan is Montana's 5th largest trade partner, purchasing millions of dollars of Montana exports of agricultural products, chemicals and machinery. I want to thank our friends in Taiwan for their continued importation of Montana goods.

Taiwan's citizens enjoy one of the highest living standards in the world. On the occasion

of Republic of China's National Day, it is important to remember that Taiwan has a strong relationship with the United States and we hope that this relationship will continue to flourish in the years to come. Happy birthday Taiwan.

IN MEMORIAL OF THOMAS J.  
LASSITER

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I celebrate the life and memory of Mr. Thomas J. Lassiter of Smithfield, NC. Mr. Lassiter was a talented and influential journalist, a respected community figure, and a dedicated family man. As a journalist and editor of the Smithfield herald, Mr. Lassiter was widely known for his bold and careful thought and for taking sometimes unpopular, yet morally correct positions on issues of the day. History has proven that Thomas Lassiter was truly a man before his time.

Thomas James Lassiter, Jr. was born on August 21, 1911, to Thomas and Rena Lassiter, and graduated from Duke University in 1932. After taking a year to play jazz trombone with the Jelly Leftwich orchestra, Mr. Lassiter returned to Smithfield to join his mother at the herald, where she was serving as editor. He remained at the paper for not quite half a century until his retirement in 1980. During the 1940's, 50's, and 60's. Lassiter gained fame for his strong editorials on racial justice and his opinions on local and international issues. He also served as president of the North Carolina Press Association in 1951-52, and in 1982 was elected to the North Carolina Journalism Hall of Fame. Mr. Lassiter also taught journalism at the University of North Carolina from 1948 to 1953.

By virtue of the words he wrote in the Smithfield herald, Mr. Lassiter was already a public figure, but he also was motivated to serve his community through action. Over the years, he served as chairman or president of the Smithfield Library Board of Trustees, the Smithfield Chamber of Commerce, the local chapter of the North Carolina Symphony Society, and the Smithfield Kiwanis Club. He was also a leader at Smithfield First Baptist Church, as superintendent of Sunday school and church history. Mr. Lassiter was also committed to his family. Together he and Elizabeth, his wife of 61 years, raised two children who gave him four grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, before I close I want to read a quote from one of Mr. Lassiter's editorials. I believe it summarizes the greatness and vision of his work and gives us an idea of the intellect Mr. Lassiter possessed. This excerpt taken from an article titled "A Regrettable Rift" was written after some African American citizens were denied the right to register to vote in the 1945 Smithfield primary election.

All the Negroes who presented themselves for registration—more than 75 of them—were turned down, while only two whites were denied the privilege of getting their names in the book.

Racial discrimination is on the way out in America and the sooner the people generally recognizing that fact the better it will be for

whites as well as Negroes. Racial discrimination is on the way out because it is fundamentally wrong. It is contrary to the very heart of the teachings of Jesus Christ. It is contrary to the highest concept of democracy. It is specially forbidden by the Constitution of the United States.

Negroes pay taxes; they are subject to the same laws that govern whites; they are drafted into the armed forces; they shed their blood on the battlefields alongside of white soldiers. If they are asked to spill their blood for democracy, can we honorably deny them the right to share in the democracy for which they fight?

How long will the Negroes refrain from militancy or belligerency in their struggle for basic rights? That depends upon how soon the majority race frees itself from deep-rooted prejudices and refrains from denying Negroes fundamental democratic privileges which are guaranteed them by the highest law in the land.

Twenty years before the Voting Rights Act, the extraordinary editorial was bold, visionary and courageous. Mr. Speaker, Thomas J. Lassiter left us a legacy of words and actions that inspire us to improve our society, serve our local community, and uphold the honor of our families. I am honored to share his story and celebrate his legacy with this House today.

IN MEMORY OF BETTY BANKS

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a beloved citizen of the Fourth Congressional District and a dear friend, the later Betty Jean Henderson Banks of Ivanhoe, Texas, who passed away earlier this year. Betty was a wonderful woman whose kindness and dedication to her family, friends and community will be long remembered.

Born in Louisiana to the late Lafayette Victor Henderson and Ida Butler Starke Henderson, Betty married James Walter Banks in 1938 in Bonham, Texas. Throughout her years in Bonham, Betty raised a family and worked tirelessly on behalf of her community. Betty was known by many of her work at the Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center in Bonham, where she worked in food service. She also was known throughout Bonham for her volunteer efforts on numerous causes, for making uniforms for the Missionettes (Girls Club) to helping find and fight for a liver transplant for a baby in need. Betty was an integral part of a women's prayer group that met monthly for a prayer breakfast at the First National Bank in Bonham, and she was a member of the First Pentecostal Church of God in Bonham.

In the local paper, this was written about Betty by Mrs. Paul Keahey: "Over the years she stood up for truth and honesty at all levels of society and government and what she believed to be right." These sentiments were echoed by her many friends and fellow citizens who knew her and loved her.

Betty is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, James V. "Butch" Banks and Carol of Baytown; two daughters and sons-in-law, Kathy and Mike Stockton of Ravenna and Becky and Victor Santiago of West Haven,

Conn.; and a brother, Robert H. Henderson of Colville, Wash.. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, James Walter Banks, who passed away in 1996; a granddaughter, Amanda Stockton; brother, L. Victor Henderson, and a sister, Yvonne Henderson.

Betty was an honest and loyal friend to many and a role model in her community. We will miss her—but her legacy will live on in the lives of all those whom she touched with her generosity and kindness. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, may we do so in memory of this beloved citizen of Fannin County, Betty Banks.

DR. JAMES BILLINGTON, LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS, HONORED FOR BICENTENNIAL AND LOCAL LEGACIES PROGRAM

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2000*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Dr. James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress, and to thank him for the fine job that he and the staff of the Library have done with the Local Legacies program, which has served as the focal point of this year's bicentennial celebration for the Library.

As the members may be aware, the Library of Congress, the nation's oldest federal cultural institution, was established by an act of Congress in 1800, when President John Adams signed a bill transferring the seat of government from Philadelphia to the new capital city of Washington. In addition to the Local Legacies program, which is the focus of my remarks today, the bicentennial of this great institution has been observed with ceremonies, exhibitions, the issuance of a commemorative stamp and coins, as well as the launch of a new, easy-to-use and entertaining Web site, [americaslibrary.gov](http://americaslibrary.gov).

In light of Dr. Billington's accomplishments and the tremendous success of the Local Legacies project, I would like to point out his ties to the Keystone State and to Northeastern Pennsylvania in particular. He is a native of Pennsylvania and holds an honorary degree from the University of Scranton. He has made great stride toward his goal of making the Library truly the "people's library," and the Local Legacies project is an excellent example of this.

Last year, each Member of Congress was asked to submit audio, visual, or textual documentation for at least one significant cultural heritage that has been important to his or her district or state to serve as a record for future generations, who might otherwise have lost this important knowledge forever. This documentation is now permanently housed in the collections of the Library's American Folklife Center. In May, Members of Congress and Local Legacies project participants from across the country came together in the Great Hall of the Thomas Jefferson building to celebrate the completion of this magnificent collection of historical material.

I was pleased to register several important cornerstones of community life in my district for posterity as Local Legacies: the Hazleton